

# CROSSOVER

Camillian Task Force Central

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## Bringing hope to fisherfolks

Cover story in the next page.



After only a few days of Christmas holidays, SSP-CTF marched again towards the coastal towns of Western Samar (Marabut, Basey, Sta.Rita) to continue its relief and rehabilitation operations to the survivors of typhoon Yolanda (intl. name Haiyan). The team was welcomed with the first typhoon (codename: Agaton) of the year 2014 but the mission continues.

SSP-CTF is now focusing on livelihood, health assistance, psychosocial intervention and enhancing capacities of volunteers in order to carry their task with professionalism.

In January, 25 young men and women received livelihood packages such as 6 motor taxis for public transport service and 19 barber's and beauty parlor kits. Due to rough terrain and distances, motorbikes (called habal-habal) are the common means of transportation. "May pag-asa na!" (There's hope) said one barber when asked how feels about this blessing. Like everyone else, he was happy and eager to receive his own new barber's set because "may dalawa na akong costumers na nag-aantay para magpagupit," (I have already two costumers waiting for me), he said with a wide smile.

Three medical and psychosocial missions were conducted simultaneously in the three barangays (villages), namely, Osmena (Marabut), Tinaogan (Basey) and San Pedro (Sta. Rita), headed by Frs. Eric Tampus (CTF Luzon), Dan Cancino (CTF National), John Jay Magpusao (CTF Visayas) and Renato Maliwat (SCH Director). Eucharists were celebrated also before the clinic begun. 189 patients were served; 1,630 food and hygiene packs were distributed; and 1,048 children received psychosocial support services and feeding.

The second module for capacity building and enhancement were conducted at St. Camillus Hospital of Calbayog to a team of 20 "barefoot counselors". The module focuses on active listening skills and gender sensitivity. Majority of the participants are from Samar. This will assure sustainability of intervention in the near future.

Four months later, the affected communities are still groping to stand up and striving to have a more resilient family life ready to face the next challenges and disasters. More than 2 million families are displaced from their homes. A few are temporarily housed in bunkhouses built by the government. Many do not have access to potable water supply, livelihood, and the lot where they can rebuild their houses. The loss of lives and property was staggering. However, what is equally evident and striking is the unbroken spirit of the Filipino people; the concerted action of the Church and its networks, the government and its partners, and the tremendous support from the global communities and institutions to rebuild and heal their lives.

"Indeed, the men and women with the red cross has been here since the start of the relief operations and they are still here until now which signify their continuous journey and commitment to the people of Samar" acclaimed by a barangay captain (village head) of Tinaogan, Samar. As the Holy Eucharist is frequently shared to the affected communities, the Camillian Task Force- Philippines continues to reach out to the people of Basey, Sta. Rita and Marabut. Since November 2013, more than 25,500 families received food and non-food packs, medical care; 2,135 children are enrolled in the health and nutrition program; 540 mothers attended the basic health education seminar; 3,150 received psychosocial and mental health support. Community sanitation activities were conducted in different villages. Some patients were given referrals to health care facilities.

All activities of the CTF- Philippines are coordinated with the Diocese of Calbayog in collaboration with the relief and recovery efforts of religious congregations, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commissions on Health (CBCP-ECH), the Social Action centers, faith-based organizations (FBOs), government and private institutions such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Habitat for Humanity, ABS-CBN Foundation, UN Children's Fund and UN Joint Program in the Philippines.

Recently, CTF-Philippines has ventured again in the provision of livelihood to identified families (mostly fisher folks) in the affected areas such as awarding of motorized boats (20 out of 70 targets) for fishing to selected families. The beneficiaries of the livelihood programs are forming themselves into a cooperative which upholds and promotes the values of self-reliance, good governance, equity and transparency in the community. They will share a portion of their income to the cooperative. Their active participation will ensure development and progress in the communities of Malobago, Tinaogan and San Antonio. More livelihoods apart from those mentioned above such as livestock raising will be developed in the areas together with programs for women and children empowerment and sustainable access to health care services.

CTF Philippines with the continuous support of Fondazione PRO-SA, Madian Orizzonti Onlus, Fondazione Lo Specchio dei Tempi, CTF Central, Camillian Generalate, Camillian Sisters, Camillian Provinces/



Delegations and the great Camillian Family aims to be as one of the hundred arms of St. Camillus bringing the ever-present LOVE of God to the poor and the sick.

All these activities are organized and coordinated by the 45-member SES-Camilian Task Force Team. The team is divided into small teams: 1) Medical - St. Camillus Hospital Calbayog with volunteer nurses and doctors, 2) Psychosocial and Nutrition - teachers from Department of Education and North Western Samar State University, social workers and volunteer nurses, 3) Relief - SCH Calbayog volunteers and families, 4) Pastoral - Frs. Renato Maliwat, John Jay Magpusao, & Dan Vicente Cancino Jr. (Camillians). The overall team coordinating body is composed by Ronald Rizabal (team leader), Edward Bermoy and Remegio Antivo (asst. team leaders) and Roland Paraon.

By Dan Cancino, MI

SECS' members and the beneficiaries



# SECS, SSP CTF “Adopt a Family”

**F**ive months had passed since the earthquake of Bohol on October 2013. After the emergency phase, the CTF as coordinated by Father John Jay Magpusao, MI is continuing with a new program for selected affected families. With the support of the CTF Central, Salute Sviluppo Philippines (SSP), Society of Ex-Camillian Seminarians (SECS ) and the Camillian Sisters and lay partners after having distributed aids to more than 6,000 families across the seven towns of Bohol, they are now launching a program called "Adopt a Family".

This project in collaboration with the Department of Social Service and Development (DSWD) which helped in identifying possible recipients, offers a targeted action to support indigent families for the rehabilitation of their homes and access to livelihood activity for economic sustainability of the family such as provision of sewing machines and motorcycles for public transport, and an initial capital for a store.



Every family beneficiary was consulted regarding their needs and concerns by the members of the SECS and listened too, as far as their potential and capacities are concerned to achieve self-reliance. This project is primarily conceived in response to the prevailing needs of the individual family and developed through a participative approach that formed the criteria and strategy of involving people in the decision-making. This phase is primarily funded by Fondazione PROSA of the Camillian Italian Province.

Last March 15, Fr. Dan and the members of SECS-Bohol Chapter, routed to the selected towns in Bohol in order to award the initial

assistance to some of the beneficiaries of the said program. They distributed livelihood and construction materials to the first five recipients on that day. Prior to the awarding, the beneficiaries went through an orientation conducted by the group headed by Fr. Dan Vicente Cancino MI, Atty. Renato Renegado and Atty. Ted Lagang. Also participated in the activity were Atty. Reynald Benjamin Chiu, Salvio Jerome Madanguit, Joseph Apale, Ronald Pantanosas, Primo Somorostro, Cago Raña, Mars S. Digal, Siegfried Zamora, Erusel Erussel Cua and more ex-Camillians, their wives and some members of their family. WITHIN EACH OF THEM LIES THE SPIRIT OF ST. CAMILLUS.

By Chona Digamon Rana



# ONCE SERVED

# NOW READY TO SERVE

**WAJIR:** Bro. Francis Munene, MI, the new assistant coordinator of CTF Kenya went to visit Wajir last January 25. During his visit, which lasted for about two weeks, he noticed several technical challenges particularly in the ongoing implementation of the food security program. According to him, the 90% of the greenhouses showed a decreasing yield based on the three croppings since July 2013 due to soil problem. The soil is salty (high salinity). He said; "In Wajir the soil is salty and the salt deposits on the topsoil caused poor production after the first cultivation. Rain could help dissolve the saline particles but so scarce and it could hardly penetrate inside the greenhouses.

The drips of the greenhouses are also corroded with salt, thus, watering is a bit challenging for the farmers." Bro. Francis suggested the following: soil testing which is already in the process, soil replacement, repositioning of the greenhouse and replacement of bigger drips.

On the other hand, five new petrol driven water pumps from Davis & Shirliff were installed by Mr. Peter Ndungu of timing the new water pump Penjo Waterworks in four different community farms of Maalim Salat, Got ade, Alimaow and Barwako. The farmers were also trained on basic maintenance and minor repairs conducted by an engineer of Penjo Waterworks. The next thing to do is to cap and treat these wells so that contamination can be avoided and potable water can be provided.

One hundred twenty (120) community health workers (CHWs) have participated in a 3-day on-going basic health seminars. Among the topics discussed are the following: health and development in the community, community governance and leadership, best practices for health promotion and disease prevention, basic healthcare and life saving skills, use of community information and disease surveillance, and first aid. The trainers were coming from the Ministry of Public Health office. Aside from the training, they received also 12 complete first aid kits, wheelbarrows, pangas, sprayer tanks and chemicals for their community hygiene initiatives.

Wajir 3 is primarily funded by Caritas Italiana. Supporting initiatives are funded by Fondazione PROSA of the Camillian Italian province. CTF Kenya is so grateful to the donors and benefactors who sustained this phase which encourages much the farmers to find ways of producing their own food rather than depending on food aid which is ongoing for the past 15 years despite many challenges because of the aridity of the land.

*By Francis Munene, MI*



Community Health Workers (CHEWS) of Wajir undergoing an ongoing health training and community health service.

**BOSSEMPTLE** - President Bozize of Central African Republic (CAR) came to power on March 15, 2003 through a military coup until January 10, 2013 upon the signing of the Libreville Agreement which formed a transitional government and allows power sharing with the Prime Minister.

However, this was not enough to bring peace in CAR. The Seleka coalition composed mainly of Chadians and Sudanese have attacked Bangui (capital) on March 23 and Pres. Bozize has escaped then. Michel Djotodia, head of Seleka, became President of the Republic during the 18-month transition government. This was one of the worst moments in the history of CAR where armed robbery (cars and motorcycles) and looting in shops and homes were rampant. This ordeal lasted about 10 months from March 23 - December 5, 2013.

On December 5, a new coalition came out -"Anti-Balaka." They demanded the resignation of Djotodia. This coalition is not a Christian militia (as many believe) but rather a self-defense force made up of a group called "Akongo" (the real Central Africans). They called themselves as fighters for the liberation of the people of Central Africa. Their role is to free CAR from the grip of Seleka; a very difficult mission that led to war without mercy. Thousands died in Bangui and can be tripled counting those from distant provinces. Hundreds were injured in Bangui and in the pro-

# CAMILLIANS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

vinces. It is a very serious situation. Almost likened to a genocide.

The *Akongos* are at war against the *Abeguè* (Arab shepherds originally from Sudan). Refugee camps are mushrooming then in the country. Parishes, seminaries and religious convents are giving refuge to them. The French military (*sangaris*) with obvious limitations is trying to maintain peace in CAR. Just look at what had happened in Bangui during the war between factions. There are constant clashes between Seleka and anti Balaka all throughout the country. The conference of Ndjamena held on January 9-10 at Chad led to the resignation of President Djotodia. A new page of history began with the election of Catherine Samba Panza as the new transition President on January 20, 2014. Abuse and looting continue in Bangui and in the provinces.

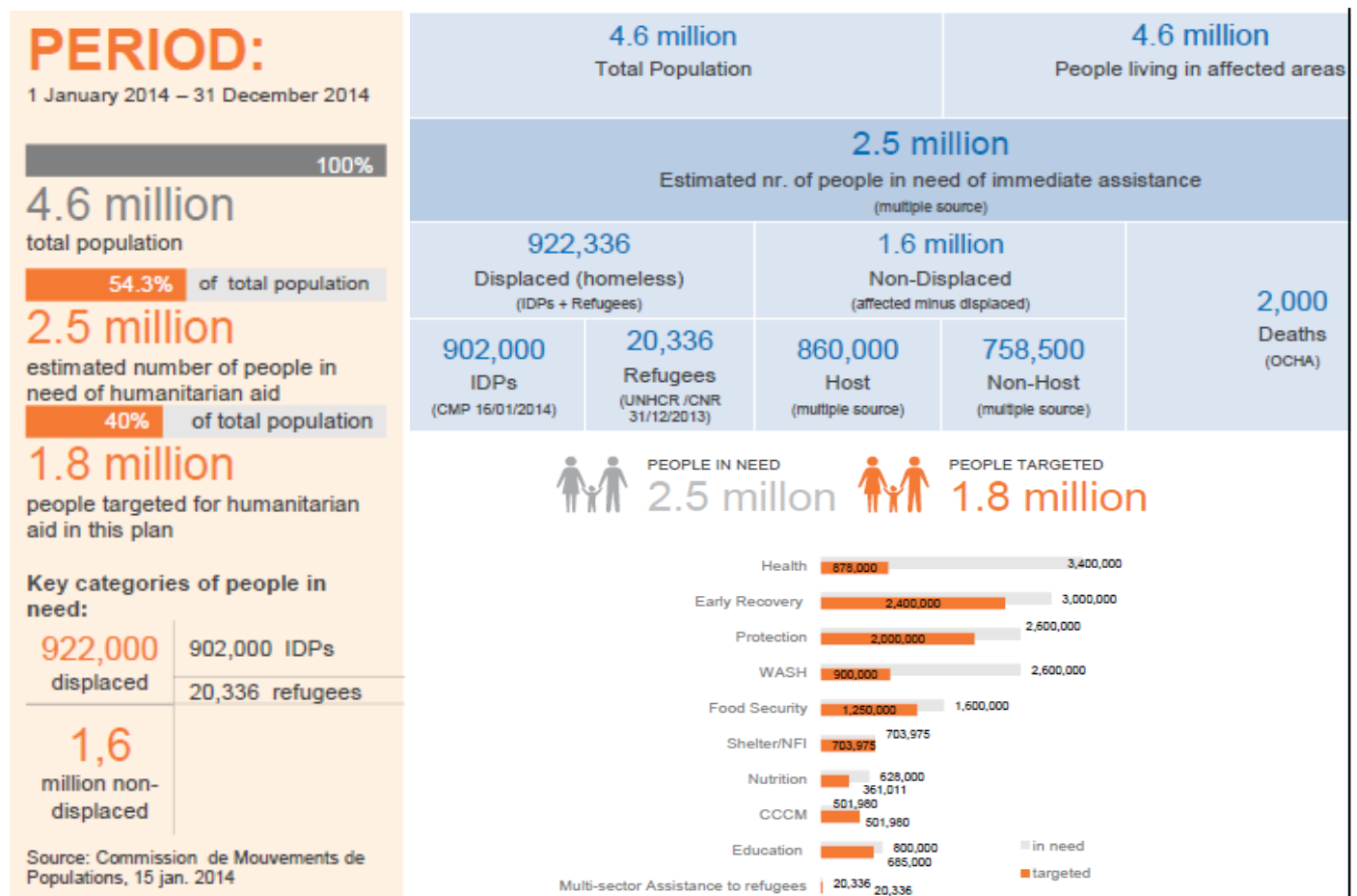
On January 17, the ongoing conflict scored in Bossemptele. On the night of 17th, it was too dark than the usual, the Seleka has bolted into the Camillian community

(hospital) three times. The first attempt, they stole the car of *Premiere Urgence*, an NGO; at midnight, they have taken our vehicle (Toyota) and then later five motorcycles. They forcedly open the doors of the hospital. We panicked. Each one of us has experienced an appalling fear. During their first entry, I was taken hostage and shot me almost hitting my legs forcing me to show to them

where the motorcycles were parked. It was the worst nightmare of my life. Just imagine the situation then.

The retaliation was more tragic then by the next day of January 18 upon the arrival of the Anti-Balaka forces at Bossemptele. The Seleka had abandoned the place. The mayor of the city and the two Imams were preparing to deal with them while the Arab forces were waging war against them. In the end, we counted the damage: two died among the anti-Balakas while more than a hundred among the Abegues; the market was burned and more than five villages were reduced into ashes; there were lootings in houses and shops. We still have the Arabs or *peulhs* from the villages who are taking refuge in our hospital and in the school of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. As of this time, our storage are already empty. There are still around a thousand anti-Balakas in the area. Until when will this be over?

(From a confrere)



Sources: OCHA, 2014 Strategic Response Plan Central Africa, revised.



**INDIA** - Siby Kaitharan, MI is continuing the promotion and coordination of the CTF activities India such as an ongoing housing project in the State of Uttarakhand for those affected by the flood that caused tragic deaths and massive destructions in the Himalayan regions. 9,251 individuals in 57 villages were assisted and received medical help from the CTF. Aside from this, CTF India is launching activities that promote CTF India's organization in various fronts. It is organizing a vice-province wide regional coordinators' meeting of 11 Camillian confreres on March 18, chaired by Fr. Siby with the presence of no less than the vice provincial superior Fr. Baby Ellickal.

The objective of this meeting is to broaden the horizon of the Camillian pastoral presence in India. To enable this objective, two conferences on disaster management are organized in Bangalore and Aluva in May. Building capacities is at the center of attention of CTF in serving the local communities affected as well as the Church in particular. Aside from this, an ongoing plan of a formal collaboration with NISCORT (National Institute of Social Communications, Research and Training) of the Indian Catholic Bishop Conference is slowly developing. This institute wants to develop a

# FINDING OPPORTUNITIES OF GROWTH IN EMERGENCIES

program on the theme of disaster and pastoral mass media communication. Oftentimes, communication of disastrous events through media is tainted with corporate or political interest that tends to reduce or amplify the effects of the disaster to the population according to vested interest.

Last February 18, the Camillians inaugurated a new CTF regional office in Sneha-theeram. His excellency Mar Sebastian Edayanthrath began the function with the prayer and blessing of the new ambulance and the office together with the Vicar Provincial, Baby Illicakal, MI, Mr. VK Shanavas, Panchayat member, and Mr. Santhosh, Kudumbasree convenor. Around hundreds joined on this graceful occasion. The day was blessed also by the presence of many of the big Camillian family: Sisters, Fathers, Brothers, friends, the sick and the suffering.

His Excellency Mar Sebastian Edayanthrath

By Siby Kaitharan, MI



**SHAVSVEBI** - SOSDRS (CTF USA) is accompanying and supporting the regular operation for one year of "Casa della Nonna," a project in Georgia for children war refugees. This support is extended as a recognition of the efforts of the Camillian since 2009 and the need to continue such operation until the full rehabilitation of children. This project is located at Shavshvebi Refugee Camp.

Shavshvebi Refugee camp is situated in the village of Shavshvebi which is 17 kilometers away from the city of Gori. Currently there are 177 households, with 160 children

## The GRANDMA'S HOUSE REFUGEE CENTER

at school age. Majority of its adult population is jobless. The few inhabitants working in Gori are poorly paid. Most of them sustain their families through growing fruits, vegetables and raising animals such as cows, pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Children and adolescents constitute the most vulnerable population at the camp. After the war of 2008, most of the children suffered from anxiety, depression and trauma because of witnessing to the killings. Most of them are showing aggressive behavior patterns.

As a response to the psycho-social needs of the children in the camp, the "Casa della Nonna" was established by the Camillians in 2009. This psychosocial and educational rehabilitation center assists school aged children from 6 -16 years old. Three

times a week, a team of professionals and volunteers provide therapeutic and didactic support to approximately 50 children and adolescents divided into three age groups. The center employs four professionals on a regular basis: a psychologist, a history teacher and project coordinator, an art and music teacher, and a designer and animator.

The primary objective of the project is to provide psychological support and counselling to refugee children and adolescents in order to help them overcome war-related stress, trauma, emotional and behavioral problems as well as assist them in their psychological and social adaptation to the new environment. Family members are also included in the process of recovery when possible.

(cf. [www.sosdrs.org](http://www.sosdrs.org))

# CTF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Camillian Pastoral Care Center  
Khumthong, Latkrabang , Bangkok, Thailand

The CTF leadership conference and strategic planning scheduled on September 22-26, 2014 in Bangkok is the venue where the CTF will draw its new roadmap that will define strategies and objectives of its mission which had begun in 2001. This is in response to the heighthening and intensifying incidence of global disasters and the new opportunities of the Camillians to go to the peripheries and be in communion with the anawims of God.

The first conference was held in Rome - February 2009 with the goal of defining the specific character of the Camillian presence in emergencies. The second conference will focus on laying the groundwork for a systemic and dynamic Camillian Disaster Response worldwide considering that local CTF organizations are flourishing. This meeting will be participated by CTFs (province/delegation) coordinators from all over the world, other members of the big Camillian family and partner organizations.

This conference aims to share concrete experiences and best practices of Camillian disaster response; to identify common principles and standards of disaster response in view of formulating a global framework of Camillian disaster response; and to come up with a 5-year strategic plan for our growth and development.



# CTF 10-POINT PROGRAM 2014

In the spirit of the 400 years of history of the Order in building its future, the CTF Central is defining a courses that respond to the new challenges of 2014 in disaster ministry. A ten-point program has been developed.

1	Making CTF ministry an integral part of the Camillian mainstream ministry and not just an appendage which depends solely on the goodwill of one or more actors.
2	Supporting initiatives of Provinces/ Delegations in relation to humanitarian mission not only in terms of financial resourcing but also of human resource mobilization.
3	Creating conditions for the establishment of CTF national offices in Francophone Africa, Latin America and creation of a European network for resource mobilization.
4	Rationalizing emergency funds given the exponential growth and severity of disasters.
5	Developing standard procedures of intervention, planning of projects and monitoring of resources.
6	Developing capacities of coordination and timely management of resources in the field.
7	Encouraging community-based approach in all our projects.
8	Re-proposing to Camillianum an academic reflection on the theme on pastoral care of emergency.
9	Deepening our studies on pastoral care of emergency and the 4R disaster management system.
10	Promoting research on psychosocial intervention.



# TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF CTF



"The global natural disasters in 2013 records at least 296 separate disasters way up high compared to the 259 ten year average. It incurred economic losses to a total of USD 192 billion, 4% below the ten year average of USD 200 billion. 259 The number of human fatalities caused by natural disasters in 2013 was approximately 21,250; eight of the top ten events occurring in Asia. The other two events occurred in Africa. The deadliest event of the year was Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left at least 8,000 people dead or missing in the Philippines, Vietnam and China."

(cf. AON BENFIELD, [Annual Global Climate and Catastrophe Report Impact Forecasting 2013](#))



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The name CROSSOVER was inspired by the gospel of Mark (4:35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake and their boat was battered by heavy storm that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them and Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. Just like St. Camillus in his time who crossed over the confines of the hospitals and came to rescue the victims of floods, war and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are demonstrated during these times of war and calamities.

CROSSOVER attempts to bring to you the news and events of the CTF in the world. It envisions to enrich the memory of our past through the present realities and challenges us to propel the steering wheel onwards and actively engage in the signs of the times.

Everybody is invited to contribute their stories, views, reflections and news in the field of humanitarian and pastoral mission. Please send to [ctf@camilliani.org](mailto:ctf@camilliani.org).

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Director Paolo Guarise, MI

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